

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Patent Application of |) | |
| |) | |
| Eiko SHIMIZU et al. |) | Group Art Unit: |
| |) | |
| Application No.: |) | Examiner: |
| |) | |
| Filed: |) | Confirmation No.: |
| |) | |
| For: MAT |) | |

FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the accompanying information is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

The listed documents were cited in the International Search Report in the corresponding PCT application.

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. However, copies of the documents are not provided as it is understood that they have already been transmitted by the International Bureau. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date December 1, 2004

By: Robert G. Mukai
Robert G. Mukai
Registration No. 28,531

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO & 1449B/PTO

Completed Known

FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

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| Application Number | 10/516351 |
| Filing Date | |
| First Named Inventor | Eiko Shimizu et al. |
| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket Number | 018793-274 |

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Document Number | Kind Code (if known) | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Issue/Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY) |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Document Number | Kind Code (if known) | Country | Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY) | STATUS | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|------|----------|---------------|
| | | | | | Translation | Partial Translation | Eng. Lang. Summary | Search Report | IPER | Abstract | Cited in Spec |
| | 7-337 | U | JP | 01-06-1995 | | | | X | | | |
| | 06-304047 | A | JP | 11-01-1994 | | | | X | | | |
| | 10-304950 | A | JP | 11-17-1998 | | | | X | | | |
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NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |
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Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP03/08035

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl⁷ A47C27/00, A61G7/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
Int.Cl⁷ A47C27/00, A61G7/04

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1926-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2003
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2003 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2003

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| Y | CD-ROM of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 9201/1993 (Laid-open No. 337/1995) (Shuji KAAI), 06 January, 1995 (06.01.95), Full text; all drawings (Family: none) | 1-2, 4-8 |
| Y | JP 10-304950 A (Yasuhiro KITAGAWA), 17 November, 1998 (17.11.98), Full text; all drawings (Family: none) | 1-2, 4-8 |
| Y | JP 06-304047 A (Aisin Seiki Co., Ltd.), 01 November, 1994 (01.11.94), Full text; all drawings (Family: none) | 1-2, 4-8 |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
30 September, 2003 (30.09.03)

Date of mailing of the international search report
14 October, 2003 (14.10.03)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.